

MERCED COUNTY
The STAT Program (\$982,726 grant)

The Success Through Assessment and Treatment (STAT) program is anchored in four evidence-based practices that have proven effective with mentally ill juvenile offenders and includes a comprehensive assessment and juvenile mental health court (JMHC).

The program begins with a comprehensive strength-based assessment by a mental health clinician at intake for youth who are detained and in the home for non-detained youth. This assessment may include the Voice Diagnostic Schedule for Children, a screening tool designed for youth in juvenile justice settings, as well as interviews with parents and school staff, and a review of medical and psychiatric records. The county estimates that 300 youth will receive this assessment.

Following the assessment and in coordination with probation staff, the clinician develops an individualized Mentally Ill Offender Referral/Case Plan and determines whether the youth is eligible for referral to the JMHC. If so, the court mandates a treatment plan that includes home visits and community supervision by one of two probation officers with specialized JMHC caseloads of not more than 30 youth each.

Depending on their particular needs and issues, the youth participating in the STAT program participate in one or more of the following:

- Aggression Replacement Training: An intensive 10-week skill-building course (up to 300 youth in custody and in the community).
- Intensive Wraparound: Intensive case management and home-based, family-focused services (provided for an average of seven months to 15 youth and their families).
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT): An array of intensive supports incorporated into a family driven treatment plan administered by a team of therapists, each one of whom works with 12-15 families at a time.
- Psychopharmacology: Medication management through a consulting psychiatrist (an estimated 30 youth).

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